

**BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In the Matter of the Suspension of	)	
	)	
the Educator Certificate of	)	CONSENT ORDER OF
	)	
Melody L. Parrott	)	SUSPENSION
	)	
Certificate # 217096	)	

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on December 7, 2004. On May 5, 2004, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) sent Melody Parrott a notice of her right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate number 217096 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Ms. Parrott received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing her signature. On June 25, 2004, Ms. Parrott requested a hearing, which was scheduled for February 25, 2005, before John J. Fantry, Jr., Esquire, a hearing officer appointed by the State Board. Ms. Parrott subsequently agreed through her attorney, Dwayne Mazyck, Esquire, to resolve the case without a hearing. Ms. Parrott agreed to the voluntary suspension of her certificate for a fourteen-month period. The suspension period would commence retroactively on March 4, 2004, and end on June 1, 2005. This agreement gives Ms. Parrott the right to apply for the reinstatement of her certificate after June 1, 2005. If she chooses to apply for reinstatement, Ms. Parrott must pass a character fitness review by the State Board to include, at minimum, evidence that she has successfully completed all court ordered requirements. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the voluntary suspension of Ms. Parrott's certificate upon the terms set forth above.

Melody  
Parrott  
No.#  
217096

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initial  
Here

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

Ms. Parrott holds an initial South Carolina certificate with less than one year of teaching experience. Ms. Parrott was employed by the Chesterfield County School District from January 15, 2004, until she was placed on administrative leave on March 4, 2004, and subsequently terminated, effective April 1, 2004. Ms. Parrott's administrative leave and termination resulted from criminal charges being filed against her for two instances of writing checks with insufficient funds and two instances of attempting to obtain controlled substances under false pretenses. The criminal charges arose out of Ms. Parrott's conduct in presenting altered pain medication prescriptions. Ms. Parrott is currently completing a drug rehabilitation program for addiction to pain medication, as well as other court-ordered requirements. Ms. Parrott had been prescribed pain medication following an automobile accident.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004). Just cause includes "(4) Unprofessional conduct ...(7) Crime against the law of this State of the United States...." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). The State Board finds that the evidence presented supports its decision to accept the suspension of Ms. Parrott's certificate # 217096, from March 4, 2004, through June 1, 2005, upon the conditions set forth above. If she wishes to have her certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, Ms. Parrott may make a written request to the Office of Teacher Certification of the Department and must pass a character fitness review by the State Board.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Mary E. Jones

Dr. Mary E. Jones

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

December 7, 2004

I, Melody L. Parrott, SC Teaching Certificate 217096, do hereby agree to the proposed Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board of Education for approval on Tuesday, December 7, 2004.

Melody L. Parrott  
Melody L. Parrott

12/02/04  
Date